

FACT SHEET



FUNDRAISING CAR WASHES

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

Car washes are a popular choice for nonprofit fundraising, yet many do not know the soap and water used to wash and rinse the cars contains waste that can pollute water resources. Dirty water containing soaps, detergents, residues from exhaust fumes, gasoline, motor oil and heavy metals flows along the pavement into nearby storm drains. Water entering the storm drain system is not treated before being discharged into our local creeks and the Bay.

HOW THE CITY CAN HELP

To help prevent pollution from car wash events, the Sunnyvale Environmental Services Division at the Water Pollution Control Plant recently purchased two Sudsafe storm drain protection kits that can be borrowed by nonprofit groups. Along with other supplies, the kits contain an insert to block a storm drain and a pump to divert wash water to nearby landscaping or to the sanitary sewer for treatment and discharge. In addition, a brochure describing proper car wash event practices is available.

WHO TO CONTACT

For more information on best practices for car wash fundraising, or to borrow a car wash kit, call Sunnyvale Environmental Services at (408) 730-7260, TDD (408) 730-7501.



City of Sunnyvale

Green information is available on the City's Web site at
green.inSunnyvale.com